THE WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER

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INTERVIEW BILL WATTS

The following is the second part of an interview that was conducted by the editor, John Clark, with Bill Watts via telephone from his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma on April 15. In this interview, Watts discusses his experience at WCW and his feelings about his nine month reign there. In the third part of this interview that will be published in the next issue, Watts talks about his son Erik Watts, his resignation from WCW, Jim Ross, the future he sees for the wrestling business, and his future plans. The proceeding are all of Watts' personal opinions.

Clark: Where do you think you were headed with WCW?

Watts: I think we were on the correct concept. I thought we were set to turn the first important corner. I don't think the winning corner, but we turned the first corner. We were getting a lot of new talent in. We were getting a better attitude in the dressing room. The funny thing about the dressing room attitude was, the guys on guaranteed contracts wanted to know how many days off they had a month and the guys on contracts that were based per event wanted to know how many times they were booked during the month. That's the kind of attitude you need. The young guys were all going to the gym the days off and working out in the ring. We were going to eventually have our own school, our own training camp, just like the Japanese did. WCW, they'd see somebody like Bruce Baumgarten who's an Olympic champion, and they'd say, "God, just get him here. Buy him." Well, Bruce Baumgarten has never wanted to be in pro wrestling. Bruce is a purist. He's an Olympian, he does not want to be in pro wrestling. And I respect him for that. But shit, my bosses wanted me to, "Get him down here. We'll give him anything to be in this thing." What the hell, why do you go get a guy who doesn't even want to be here? If you give him enough money, he'll come. What do you have? You've got a guy that doesn't want to be in it. I'll tell you what, Sting, if he wasn't making $800,000 a year, he wouldn't be in it. He's at the point in his life, he's a good businessman, he's got his gymnasiums going, he's at the point where he doesn't have to do it anymore. Same thing with Hulk. You've got to want to be in it and you've got to love it above everything in order to be in it. That's the kind of athletes you've got to get in it. Wrestling has gone so far overboard to show biz that it has no credibility. But still, WCW, we were doing the right thing. We just couldn't get rid of the dead weight. We couldn't get rid of the people who didn't understand what we were doing and that just wanted to save their damn job. I'm telling you, the memo wars that go on there are mind-boggling. It's more important to feather your nest and suck up to somebody and try to get rid of somebody or put them down or zing them or stab them in the back. My back looked like a porcupine. I was glad to get back to see some of the kids that cared. The ones that cared and knew what I was doing, they supported it. Supported it 100%. The people that cared and supported it and understood where we were going saw the progress we were making. A lot of people didn't see it. The funny thing is, even the critics, we were making progress on almost everything they said. And they're so in such a critic mode that no matter what we did, they're going to criticize us. That's like Halloween Havoc, we do a 0.96 buy rate, we marketed that thing great, and then we walk out there and can't produce. Well shit, you think it didn't cut my guts out too that our preliminary matches were outperforming our main events? I can't go in the ring for them.

Clark: Why exactly did you come back and try with WCW?

Watts: I think for the challenge and the fact that I know what's wrong with the business and I know how to fix it. What I didn't understand was, when they said they gave me total autonomy, I thought they would, and they did not. And the next thing is, I didn't understand just how f_____ up it was inner-company in Turner Broadcasting. That how many people are f______ with wrestling that don't know what the hell they're doing, and you have no control over them. We had no control on what promos TBS runs. If they promoed wrestling half as much as they promo the Braves, our ratings would be better than the Braves. If they promoed us as much as they promoed the Hawks, we'd beat the Hawks so bad that they'd look like a step-child in the ratings. They practically don't even promote us, and we still produce better than almost anything else. And they said, "Well gee, you're not doing 4.0s on the station." Well shit, they've got nothing on TBS that's doing 4.0s. Not only has wrestling downtrended, the whole cable TV audiences have downtrended. TBS' overall station averages downtrended. They can sit there and give me some statistics or some bullshit, but it just doesn't add up. It's like when they said the ratings have gone down. Well hell, the ratings were down already. I've got an announcer making half a million dollars a year that I can't tell him what to do. All he wants to make it is his show instead of what's going on. He talks right through what the hell's going on, makes fun at what's going on. Not a bad guy, but when he knows he's sitting in the driver's seat, why cooperate? I mean what the hell, he doesn't prepare before he gets there. So what, you can't fire him.

Clark: Do you feel that not having seen much wrestling in the five years you were out of the business before you returned had any effect on your performance at WCW?

Watts: No, I think wrestling stood still or went backwards. That's what everybody tried to lay off on me, that, "It's changed in the five years you were out of it." That's bullshit. The emotion that makes people buy tickets is the same damn emotion. The day we switched the title to Ron Simmons in Baltimore, there were people crying in the audience. My friend, that's the emotion like the old days. That's what everybody wants. Hell no, besides that, I was bringing the best brains in wrestling back together. I had Dusty, I was bringing in Greg Gagne- has a lot to offer to the business, he's grown up in it- Mike Graham, Bill Dundee, we were getting a lot of people into the wrestling aspect. It's just we were overloaded with the amount of production we were having to do, with facilities that can't handle it. If you'd see the facilities we had to do the production and post-production, and then compare it to Vince, it's a joke. Vince's television is light years ahead of WCW's. The production facility that Keith Mitchell has to run, we don't have the equipment. WCW Saturday Night wasn't even edited in-house.

Clark: Was it being edited by non-wrestling people?

Watts: We were finally getting that addressed too. They had guys that had been in wrestling, but they had been on strictly the production side of wrestling. If you're late at night, you're tired, you'll let something slide. We had finally addressed that. We were going to put a wrestling guy in the booth that had control over the wrestling content with each editor. First, I put Ole doing that and Ole was trying to watch it, but it was too much for him to watch. But, he was making headway. And we finally had come up with a concept that, by gosh, we're going to have a wrestling guy that's in control of the content of the final editing. And if he had anything that they had to referee then he would have brought it to me. We were delegating a lot of things out there and getting the right people to do it, but it takes time. It's been run like shit for three and a half years. You're not going to go turning it around in nine months, but we made a lot of progress. I left WCW in better shape than when I got there. I think most of it they've given back.

Clark: So overall, do you feel your reign as executive vice president of wrestling operations at WCW was a success?

Watts: I don't have to lose sleep over my effort there or the progress we made. We had nine major injuries, we had drug problems, we had a lot of things we had to address. But we were making progress. Anybody that knows wrestling knows we were making progress. Jerry Jarrett called me right after and said, "My God, Bill, you were making progress. You were giving everybody in the business hope again. If you can't do it, nobody can." Dory Jr. used to call, people like that. Terry Funk's made a lot of comments, he's just lobbying for the job.

Clark: Did you succeed in meeting the goals you had set for yourself?

Watts: Well, you had to regroup your goals because there were too many things that you had to address on a daily basis that you didn't realize were going to be a problem. And you couldn't control the syndication, you couldn't control the editing, you couldn't control the promos, you couldn't control the leaks. I mean, it was a monster. So finally, I had to shut it down and I closed it down to three guys that knew what I doing. Then I started adding to the group, trying to keep it to where everybody didn't know what we were doing before we did it. And we caught some people. It was good. When Sting switched the title to Vader, nobody knew but Sting. Vader didn't even know until he got there that night. And Sting did a fabulous job. Sting, to me, showed just times of brilliance there. I know he and I sometimes are philosophically different, but I sure don't cry anything about his effort and especially when I understand what all he's been through before I got there. That's the thing too. So many guys have been through so much shit and lied to so many times before I got there, they didn't figure I'd last very long anyway. So, they didn't want to conform or give up anything. I can't blame them. If I was in Sting's position, nobody'd f___ with me. He's got them by the balls. So for being in that position, Sting's not a bad guy to deal with at all. He was sincere, he was easy to do business with, and he contributed.

Clark: Talking about your reign statistics-wise, do you...

Watts: My first goal was to get the Omni back healthy. When I got there, the show that was booked in there did $10,000. Well, we never did $10,000 again. We did as high as $70,000 (for Starrcade '92 PPV). So I think I got the Omni back on track. The next thing, I was trying to cut the pay-per-views and start building the pay-per-views and getting a price for them. I think we were making headway. My next thing was to get WCW Saturday Night, was our flagship show, get a handle on it to where it was consistent. And we were building consistency and we were building a consistent rating. And that's all without getting to spend any money. So yeah, some of my goals I was able to meat. Some of them were very frustrating because I could not. By the time you get over there and you excite a bunch of people and you get them trying so hard, busting their ass so hard, you can't just leave them in the lurch. Until finally, you read the handwriting on the wall that no matter what you do, it ain't going to get done. They're not going to let you do it.

Clark: But didn't the pay-per-view buy rates drop...

Watts: Well, the first two were already booked when I got there. The first one that was mine was Halloween Havoc, that did a 0.96. We did a great job on it. The reason they dropped after that was because we had such a shitty performance. But God almighty, you figure if you can market something and get it there, you could at least perform. All the main events didn't perform. The match with The Steiners and Doc and Gordy was the shits, and Gordy didn't show up. Jake and Sting was the shits. We were scared Jake wouldn't even be at the show and didn't know that Gordy wasn't going to be there until the night before. The match with Rude and Chono was the shits. When Paul E. and Madusa can be the highlight of the show, you're hurting. That's what we were doing, we'd get something hot... Do you realize we got Vader hot, and we lost him for months for knee surgery. How do you overcome that? He was the hottest thing we had. Then you get Jake hot, and you lose him. You can't lose the guys like that and maintain any momentum. You get Rude injured and then The Steiners get into their shit and they ride the injury clauses. So all of a sudden, you're without everything you had gotten built. We had the momentum two or three times there. When we lost Vader, we had to switch Rude into Simmons, there was no reason for Rude and Simmons. It wasn't built and it wasn't meant to be ever, but we didn't have anybody to put against him. That tore down what we were building with Rude. We were building the momentum again, it was showing in the WCW Saturday Night, in that the rating had stabilized and started growing. That's just life. Everything just does not work exactly the way you want it to, but you just go ahead and go. We had some good things, Maxx Payne was kind of different. Too Cold Scorpio added a little spark, he was green and not very smart but he was an exciting kid. We were at least trying things with other people. Benoit, a great athlete, look at how long it took us to get his contract worked out. Brian Pillman was a real breath of fresh air, that kid was just absorbing it like a sponge. We were coming along, but again, it takes time. I'd like to see them do it more faster but when you reorganize something that's screwed up for three and a half years, you have got to get down to the basics before you rebuild. I think we were on the right track. I thought Ric Flair was the first bright spot. And Sid Vicious was wanting to come back under a very structured performance related type of contract and to reprove himself. He has that box office ability. I thought The Britsh Bulldog was another piece of talent that could fit into our scheme of things. I thought we were really starting to get some exciting talent and the ratings were starting to show people were excited, never knew what the hell was going to happen, and they were pleased to see it. They were pleased to see some of the stuff we did with young Bagwell. We were doing a lot of fun things. I didn't ever feel that Turner Broadcasting would make the commitment necessary. I thought I could do it in a faster time but I just didn't realized how entrenched and how much sand bagging goes on.

Clark: So before you went in there you had a much different picture of what it would be like in that position?

Watts: Yeah, I didn't realize because I didn't know the inner-workings of Turner Broadcasting. If all you were doing was dealing with the wrestling, it wouldn't have been quite as hard. It still would have been hard, but not quite as hard. But hell, you had to overcome Turner Broadcasting. I said many times, I felt my biggest thing to overcome there was Turner Broadcasting. As a matter of fact, they had Bothan Allen do a study and one of their guys said, "I'm just amazed at the lack of cooperation between companies and the lack of communication within companies here at Turner Broadcasting."

Clark: Were there other things you did that you felt were positive?

Watts: We were excited. We had our direction set almost a year out. But, several times we just had to change it because things happened. With Flair, we actually could then look at planning pay-per-views a year or a year and a half ahead and know we were going to draw money and be on target because Flair gave us another ingredient. Hell, when I got there, it was either Sting and somebody or you didn't have anything. With Flair, it didn't take anything away from Sting. I thought we had really rebuilt Sting and he bacame our "Raider of the Lost Ark" type of guy. We put him in some real provocative danger scenes that were easy to market. I was really excited about Barry Windham's attitude and the direction we were going to go with him, and his intensity and his excitement about it. He's always had all the ability, he's just always been taken to a certain point and dropped. So he never did really feel that anybody was ever going to do anything for him. So he always just did what he could to get by. Barry was really pumped and really busting his ass in the ring. He's one of the best workers in the business. He just needed to be motivated on a regular basis and have a goal, and he was starting to get that way. I was looking at all the positive aspects.

Clark: On the other side, do you feel there were some negative things that you did in there?

Watts: I'm sure. You know, when you get so caught up in getting shot at everyday, I think you get paranoid and you get caught up in paranoia. I think for damn sure there were some things. If I had to do again, there are a couple things I'd do different. I don't think anybody does anything exactly the way they want to or they're just lying about it. There were some things negative I did. I don't want to get into them, that's negative. I mean, hell, I made a lot of mistakes. There's no sense in going into those things. It's not going to do any good for anybody. Nobody's going to study this thing on how to do it anyway because nobody's going to get to do anything there. And if Ted sells TBS, where will WCW be?

Clark: What would you describe as your method to motivate the talent to work harder and take pride in their jobs? Having to do with contracts and then motivating them?

Watts: That's a hard thing having to deal with them contractually in one hand, in a business sense, and coaching them in the other sense. So that's a tough deal wearing both hats. But, it's necessary. It's like Mike Ditka said, "I'm used to dealing with self-motivating athletes. Now it's become where you're a babysitter." And Mike Ditka is a great coach. The people that hired me at TBS said, "Ditka, it's passed him by, he's a dinosaur." I said, "You all are crazy." How many guys can take somebody to the Superbowl? Let's stop and look at management for Ditka. What has management done for him? Name me one star that you could build a team with that management has signed for Ditka since he won the Superbowl. Then, let's name the Superbowl stars that management lost. Ditka's a hands-on guy. He's a dressing room mentality guy. And they said, "See, he can't get a job." Can't get a job, he's getting paid $900,000 to lay out this year. He'll get a job. That's their understanding of this business. They just don't understand it. They told us in one of the meetings, they said, "This is no different than a widget business. We're tired of people telling us it's unique." Let me tell you, there are very few people in wrestling that ever really understood it anyway that were successful year after year after year. So, that's what you're battling there. To motivate wrestlers, I'd tell them when they did good. I was constantly telling them when they did good. I would also tell them when they did bad, and tell them why they did bad. One of the greatest things that the young guys, the kids with their heads screwed on right, appreciated- we used to bring them right out of the ring and show them their match. Ole would sit there and go over their match right then on tape. You've got to realize, I came in when they used to do three balls shots in a match. Nobody got beat, nobody got hurt, they're hitting them in the nuts. And we're family entertainment. And I stopped that. They didn't like that. I started making them be on time. They didn't like that. I started making them show up. They didn't like that. I started making them stay when there was a championship match, until the end of the card. They didn't like that, they said, "Why should we watch the matches?" Why should you when you're getting paid no matter what? In the old days you'd watch the matches to see what the guy's doing so you could do it better. Who likes discipline? If you were out there playing football, would you want to run wind sprints? No. So then, if you were the boss up there, you'd call up the guys and say, "Gee, what do you think about Bill making you run wind sprints?" They say, "We don't like it. We don't want to do that. We shouldn't have to do it." See, that's TBS' concept, they call down to the guys and they ask them if they like what I'm doing to make them have discipline. They've never been fined there for missing matches. Ron Simmons got fined three times. The last one was $5,000. Shit, he was the world's champion and missed three engagements. Scotty Steiner, I fined him $10,000 for missing his TV title. I said, "Ron, I gave you a better deal. You're world's champion and I only fined you half as much." Ron understood it. He didn't like it, but he understood it. I said, "Look at the opportunity I've given you, and you've missed three times."

Clark: You think most of the talent was motivated by your methods?

Watts: Why deal with most. You've got to understand, you don't deal with most. You'll never please everybody. There's no human alive that pleases everybody. Do you think Jimmy Johnson pleases everybody? No. You lay down the rules the way they need to be and you get the guys to conform. You don't ask them if they like what the hell you're doing. You've already got the tail wagging the dog, why would you go ask the tail what the hell it's doing. In the wrestling business, I've seen talent and they're never fully happy. I've never seen many of them lay down in the ring. I don't think the talent was laying down in the ring over a lack of motivation. I think they were trying. I think most of them don't know what they're doing. Hell, we couldn't even lay out a finish. Our finishes had to be so simplistic, I couldn't believe it. I even laid out one myself one time and Mike Graham said, "Those guys can't do it." I said, "Mike, that's so simple anybody could do it." They screwed it up. The business has regressed because there was no challenge mentally. How can you challenge anybody mentally to do anything when they get paid the same no matter what they do. That's what people that have never been there don't understand, they don't understand that. They don't understand what it takes to go big time because they didn't have to. If you're getting paid guaranteed no matter what you do or whether you're sick or you're hurt or whatever, there's no edge. There's no edge. It came out in the Atlanta paper, funny thing, that there's about ten guaranteed contracts in the NFL, and most of those are quarterbacks. Pierce Holt just got the new one with the Atlanta Falcons where they guaranteed, even if they cut him, put him on waivers, didn't play him, if he gets hurt, he gets paid. To me, that's dumber than naming shit.

Clark: Do you think some of guys didn't like your methods because you were coming in there and making major, major changes?

Watts: I think some of them got an attitude problem and I think some of them conformed. Some conformed and some got an attitude problem. But that happens with anybody in anything. So, it was no worse or no better. We would have eventually cleaned house and had guys that had the right attitude. But, that takes time. It's nothing I haven't had to do before. Before that, since it was a wrestling company, I was supported. Here, they cried to the bosses and the bosses would ring their hands and hold their hands, "Oh, we're sorry, Bill's just too hard on you, this, that and the other thing." I mean, it's f_____' ridiculous. It's like a babysitting job, it's like Ditka said.

Clark: Did you find yourself having a hard time dealing with the office personnel on a day in and day out basis?

Watts: No, I ignored most of it. What the f___, I don't have time to deal with the office personnel. That's what they would say, that I don't accept their input. Why would I make a "Master of the Snapping Hold." And I didn't have the time. Maybe in a year I'd have had time. You put people in charge and you delegate things, and you don't have time to listen to everybody. I mean, that's ludicrous. That's not even sane. Nobody does that, if you're running a company. I made Brenda Smith office manger, I thought she did a great job. Nobody else did, but I did. But, I listened to a lot of problems and I coped with a lot of problems. You're working eighteen to twenty hours a day, you didn't have time to listen to all the little nit-picking. You'd get so sidetracked doing that. What everybody want to do, John, is they want to digress and they want to analyse the bacteria accountability and human kindness of my regime. So they want to pull it apart into little bitty pieces but none of them know what the hell the overall picture was anyway. So really, I could never explain to you the whole thing or justify it or anything else. I don't have to. But, I could never do it and make you understand it anyway unless you'd been there. If you hadn't been to the show, you don't understand what it is until you get there. You can only be an outsider looking in. That's why I always said that Meltzer and Keller ought to start their own wrestling promotion. Because they're experts on it, they'd have to be instant successes. But, I haven't seen anything start out yet in their name. The other thing is, thank God there's not been many statues or memorials erected to critics in the world. Because critics generally don't accomplish anything, they're just tearing down things. So no matter whether I did good or did bad, at least I was there. I know I did something good. I know I was in the right direction. I know I did some things bad but I know most of all I had no support. If I was there, Dusty Rhodes would still be where he is. I was bringing in a booking committee. They started saying that I had to have Sharon Sidello on my booking committee. For what? So then all of a sudden, I'm anti-women. I'm not anti-women, never have been. But, what the hell is she going to contribute to my booking committee.

Clark: What kind of comminication did you have with your bosses on the job you were doing?

Watts: They knew exactly what I thought at all times, they just didn't agree. But they don't tell you that, they go behind your back. The guys that I thought were doing their job, I got along with great. Dennis Brent, Tony Shiavone, I got along with them great. But you've got to understand it's a political game there. If they think you're in control, then they'd listen to you and do the things they're told to do. If they think you're not, they just nod and then they don't do a thing.

Clark: What was an average day at WCW like for you?

Watts: Generally, you'd start with meetings with your key department heads. The biggest thing you had there was producing television. It took precedent over everything because it's a television company. And we were producing so damn much with basically a minimum of expense for that type of thing. If you had compared our television production to the WWF's in budget and in equipment used and everything else, it would be like a Volkswagon compared to a Rolls Royce. Our production staff was overworked. A lot of the stuff that we had to do editing-wise, post production-wise, it had to be hired out because we just didn't have the capacity. It was just a constant grind, when you're doing that and the pay-per-views and the Clashes. You had so much production so you really spent a lot of time just trying to keep the television fed and keep up with the injuries and the talent and everything else. Actually, the house shows, which were already so disastrous, were the last and least important at WCW. Which basically is the way it should be with a television company and the potential of pay-per-view. You were dealing with the contracts, with all the legalities, and trying to work in through Turner Broadcasting legal to get the contracts done. It was generally a twelve to fifteen hour day of putting out fires.

The proceeding is a letter obtained from a TBS source that was sent to TBS executive Hank Aaron by Bill Watts on April 11, 1993:

Dear Hank:

Mr. Bill Shaw made me aware of a call you received from Mark Madden, a writer for a Pittsburgh newspaper and also for an insider wrestling newsletter published by Wade Keller. (Madden's editorials in this newsletter are in my opinion often very personal, beyond the bounds of journalistic integrity, and probably on occasions transgressing the libel and slander status).

I was unaware of his call to you or his accusations, and I had already resigned for my own reasons from World Championship Wrestling prior to Bill Shaw's revelation of this accusation so it had nothing to do with my departure from TBS. (I'm sure had I not already resigned, I was a "corporate liablity.")

It is my understanding that he used an article written by one of these "insider wrestling sheets" some two years ago, taken from an interview with me that because of a small portion of it in it's context and perception by some would label me an avowed racist, thereby becoming an embarrassment to TBS and to you considering your stand on the Marge Schott issue. I also feel we have crossed the Rubicon as to what is now "politically correct" to think or say versus freedom of speech in America. However, I want to present my position to you.

1. That article was in the possession of TBS executives prior to my hiring in WCW; and I had already responded to that very allegation prior to being hired.

2. My track record in the wrestling business has been the most pro-black of any promoter/owner in the history of this business!

At this point let me regress. I was raised in a non-ethnic environment in Oklahoma. I attended all white schools (not by design, there were no blacks, Hispanics, or Orientals living in our area). At the University of Oklahoma the first black athlete to "break the barrier" was there when I was. Prentice Gaunt was and is a credit to the human race. Wallace Johnson was the second black player and I considered him a friend also. Prentice went on to a distinguished pro-football career and became a Commissioner in the Big Eight. He wrote of his experiences at O.U. and our racist attitudes. I was shocked of his opinions as we all respected and supported him - but that was my perspective, and I realized that from his perspective we were - some naively so and some purposefully.

Prior to attending O.U., on a recruiting trip to New Orleans and the Sugar Bowl, I got into an altercation on a street car with whites because I sat with blacks in the back (1957 Sugar Bowl)

In pro-wrestling, I considered Bobo Brazil a friend and I respected him. Art Thomas, Thunderbolt Patterson, and Ernie Ladd were blacks I associated with, rode with, worked with, ate with, and had discourse with. When I became a promoter/owner in 1970, I integrated black wrestlers into my promotion. I was called in front of the Louisiana State Athletic Commission because I told the promoter (State appointed) in Baton Rouge they could no longer segregate the seating. I also instigated getting Monroe, Louisiana's Mayor to allow a black wrestler to wrestle a white wrestler. (Prior to that blacks could only wrestle blacks.) My top box office attraction was a great black athlete, Sylvester Ritter, whom I named The Junk Yard Dog. He set box office records for me throughout the South. I had the first (and only) black "Booker" in the wrestling business, Ernie Ladd. (That's the equivalent of an NFL head coach or baseball manager.)

When I came to WCW I made Ron Simmons the first black World's Champion of a truly major wrestling organization. I also made Brenda Smith the Office Manager, and Teddy Long's role as a black announcer was expanded and recognized formally (the first one). All of these people were placed in these positions based on ability not as a "token." Lets see how WCW follows-up on that now I'm gone!? (I discovered Too Cold Scorpio and had the video produced on him.)

My position is controversial - admittedly so, but could also be more truthful. I believe all people are racists. If you don't believe that, attend the next riot and see how sides are drawn. However, I believe people through sports, education, understanding, compassion or faith in God, have different tolerance or acceptance levels. I accept people as they accept me, or for their ability.

3. Now to the article: I feel they took it out of the context of what was said, and left part of it out. They made several errors in the article, but other than tell the writer he did, I proceeded no further. Yes, I feel it's a shame we must legislate laws against discrimination. I believe in true free enterprise. If a person can start a business and discriminate AND be successful in business - that's free enterprise. Ideally free enterprise should not support such success. I believe that if you own your own business, accept no tax dollars as support, that you should be free to run it any way you see fit that's legal. I believe you should be able to discriminate against homosexuals, filth, dress, or race if you so desire. (To me the Japanese are truly the biggest racists invading the U.S. We as a nation condone that!) Hopefully the economic competition would determine your guidelines rather than radical extremes.

As to my statement about "Roots": In that era, slavery was very common. To me "Roots" presentation was skewed to make the U.S. feel guilty as a country. I do not believe we are "guilty" as it was accepted world wide. Our country was divided over the issue. Our country addressed the issue as no other country and fought an internal civil war! We should be acclaimed for that!

I feel the series should also have shown that not all slaves were trapped or taken by force. In many instances their own chiefs sold them into slavery for trinkets or trade goods. Slavery in Africa continued long after the U.S. discontinued it.

"Roots" did help to bring together and present black history to solidify black pride - an important process.

Now I want to go one step further (and more controversial). Slavery is abominable. But God works in mysterious ways. Israel was enslaved in Egypt for 400 years (to survive a famine). To me the greatest benefit to the black race was being in America (not how they got here - but that they got here!) Through this process, and struggle, blacks got educated and integrated and have been able to be a significant part of America and have been able to help blacks world wide!!!

More atrocities have been perpetrated by blacks on blacks than the American slave trade. Idi Amin, Papa Doc, the third world black dictators have mass murdered their own race. Even now in South Africa the black vs black warfare is predominant. What black country thirty years ago was fiscally solvent? (Isn't it also a paradox that Muslims were very predominant in the slave trade.) So, yes as God used slavery to preserve the Jews (who have been discriminated against as much as the blacks - where complete genocide of their race has been attempted many times) in Egypt, their struggle was their preservation and strengthened their race. Can that too possibly be applied to the blacks and their history in America?! I'm sure you realize Chinese and Irish also died in droves digging canals in New Orleans (7000 on one canal alone) and building railroads. America has had tremendous ethnic struggle. It has helped forge this nation - a land of opportunity, not a guarantee, but an opportunity.

The bottom line is - I should not be discriminated against for my views - especially when my actions prove my racial acceptance and encouragement. I believe it proves the viciousness of the person who called you - as my record is well known. Also, I find ridiculous the Klu Klux Klan with their extreme on racism based on God?! It just doesn't compute in my Bible or in Christ's example (and certianly I'm a long ways from most peoples concept of a Christian - but I believe in God). Hopefully my logic, especially my references to a Supreme Being won't label me as a radical - but you'll read this as it is written. Yes, in my life I have used racial expressions in anger and in jest - and probably will continue to do so. When I say racial I do not just mean black, but Hispanic, Polish, Italian, Jewish, Japanese, Greek, Puertorican, etc. I also enjoy jokes about blonds, women, homosexuals, and many other forms of humor - but that doesn't reflect in my business or personal history.

I wasn't running for political office. I also have been the object of such humor by Blacks, Polocks, Japs, and Mexicans; and found it to illustrate very funny traits I have and be able to laugh at myself.

The night we rode to the Clash at Center Stage together, I had asked to be in the limo with you in order to meet you - not because you are black, but because of your accomplishments. Thank God for sports.

I also feel we shared common ground about how "beyond the pale" sports has gone and how little control of the athletes there is, and that a crisis is inevitable.

I'm part Cherokee Indian, and proud of it. The Indians have been and continue to be discriminated, murdered, and enslaved. In Canada and parts of the U.S. we are more racially discriminated against than blacks. Visit some of our reservations - they were before ghettos.

Thanks for reading this - at least you have my side of the story. Isn't corporate America insidious and hypocritical?! The corporate term "friend" is a little ambiguous isn't it? Is ever a person's true integrity and ability smeared and discredited by just such accusations and innuendo?!!

Sincerely,

Bill Watts

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

WWF Superstars television tapings were held at the Auditorium in Worcester, MA (the much smaller venue in Worcester compared to the building they normally run in -The Centrum) on 5/4 in front of a sellout crowd of about 4,000. The Nighstalker (Bryan Clark) debuted under his new name, Adam Bomb, as he won a squash beating Louis Santana. He basically used power moves throughout the match and his finisher was the powerbomb. He was managed by Johnny Polo (Scotty Flamingo), who debuted earlier in the evening insulting the crowd. He was dressed as a golfer would dress and carries a golf club. The Harlem Kinghts, who recently departed the USWA in Memphis, received a tryout and they apparently were impressive. In another tryout, Big City Mike beat Mo Pain. Boni Blackstone debuted as she is doing the live interviews for Superstars. She interviewed Lex Luger, who talked about the steel plate in his elbow, and Sensational Sherri, who talked about how she should be the "First Lady of the WWF" and about how she'll beat Luna Vachon. Matches taped for WWF Mania saw Mr. Hughes, managed by Harvey Whippleman, beat Owen Hart in a basic 5:00 squash and Bam Bam Bigelow beat Kamala in 3:50. In non-squash matches, Tatanka beat Doink (Matt Borne started it out and then he switched with Steve "Skinner" Keirn, who was under the ring, when Tatanka threw Borne out of the ring) by DQ in 13:33 when both Doinks began beating on

Tatanka until Crush made the save, Crush wrestled Shawn Michaels to a double-countout in 5:35, Jim Duggan beat Brooklyn Brawler, Bret Hart beat Papa Shango with the sharpshooter, Randy Savage beat Giant Gonzales by DQ in 6:08 when Gonzales wouldn't stop choking Savage which was followed by Gonzales choke-slamming ref Bill Alphonso causing an array of agents to make the save, Crush beat Blake Beverly, Undertaker beat Bam Bam Bigelow in 5:42 with the choke-slam after Tatanka chased Bigelow back to the ring after Bigelow was walking back towards the dressing room, and Bret Hart beat Yokozuna via DQ in 5:07 when Fuji hit Hart with the flagpole. Absent from the tapings were Razor Ramon, Money Inc., Bob Backlund, and The Nasty Boys.

Wrestling Challenge television tapings were held on 5/5 at the Expo Building in Portland, ME in front of about 3,000 (they ran in the smaller facility in Portdland, which only holds about 3,100). A King of the Ring qualifying match was held as Mr. Hughes, managed by Harvey Whippleman, beat Kamala by countout in 2:44. Jerry Lawler began hosting his new interview segment, "King's Court," that will be aired on Challenge. It was said that it got over great, especially with the heat on Lawler, with everyone chanting "Burger King." His guests were Giant Gonzales & Harvey Whippleman, Luna Vachon, and Yokozuna. They ran one segment (wasn't taped) with an Austalian football player named Colin Scott who's looking at getting into wrestling. He chased Lawler into the ring and beat on Lawler, which got a great crowd reaction. Johnny Polo was managing Adam Bomb as he beat Virgil in two different squashes. The Harlem Knights worked again, but as faces. Tazmaniac got a tryout as he beat Scott Taylor. In non-squash matches, Tatanka beat Bam Bam Bigelow by countout in 8:00, Shawn Michaels beat Typhoon in 3:39, Michaels beat Typhoon (again) in 5:08, Lex Luger beat Crush as he removed his elbow pad while the ref was out and nailed Crush with an elbow in 12:15, Doink (Matt Borne) beat Virgil after he sprayed something in his eyes and both Doinks wound up double-teaming Virgil until Crush made the save, Undertaker beat Gonzales by DQ in 4:25 when Whippleman took the urn from Paul Bearer and hit Undertaker with it, and Bret Hart beat Yokozuna by DQ in 5:10 when Mr. Fuji hit Hart with the came as Hart had Yokozuna in the sharpshooter. They double-teamed Bret until his brother, Owen, made the save.

The King of the Ring PPV from the Nutter Center in Dayton, OH on June 13 will feature Hulk Hogan (with Brutus Beefcake & Jimmy Hart in his corner) vs Yokozuna (with Mr. Fuji in his corner) for the WWF title, Shawn Michaels vs Crush for the IC title, Money Inc & The Headshrinkers vs The Steiner Brothers & The Nasty Boys, and an eight man single elimination tournament to crown a new King. The participants in that tourney include Bret Hart (received an automatic entry), Lex Luger (beat Bob Backlund), Razor Ramon (beat Tito Santana, Jim Duggan (beat Papa Shango), Mr. Hughes (beat Kamala), and Bam Bam Bigelow.

SummerSlam '93 will emanate from the Palace of Auburn Hills (20,000+ seating capacity) in Auburn Hills, MI (about 25 miles outside of Detroit) on August 30 and will be broadcast on a pay-per-view basis. Tickets for the live event go on sale 6/28. Many are speculating a Hulk Hogan title defense against Bret Hart as the main event.

Lightning Kid debuted at the Monday Night Raw television tapings working as The Kamikaze Kid on 4/26 as Doink the Clown (I and II?) squashed him in two matches, one of which aired on the 5/3 Raw. He will be working for New Japan Pro Wrestling in early June and will start full-time with Titan when he returns from that tour in on June 14.

Captain Lou Albano made an appearance at the 4/26 Raw tapings and commentated the Headshrinkers squash match that aired 5/3. No word on whether this was a one shot deal or if there are plans of him coming back. There was negotiations at the beginning of the year for him to manage The Nasty Boys.

WWF drew horrible crowds this week - Providence, RI on 5/2 with 3,100, Springfield, MA on 5/2 with about 1,800, Landover, MD on 5/1 with about 2,300, and Hartford, CT on 5/3 with about 2,100 - except for Uniondale, NY's Nassau Coliseum on 5/1 with about 9,000.

The Nasty Boys, who last worked on the European tour, missed their dates over the first weekend of house shows in the states since WM9 and there is no official word yet about their status with Titan, other than Brian Knobbs is apparently getting married. . . Papa Shango captured the USWA title from Jerry "The King" Lawler in Memphis, TN on 5/3. Sensational Sherri captured the USWA womens title from Miss Texas in Memphis on 4/19. Randy Savage has made many appearances in the USWA lately, one of them being a steel cage match against Lawler on 4/19 which saw Lawler tear off Sherri's dress after he won by DQ when Sherri interfered. . . Boni Blackstone was hired to do Event Centers and live interviews on the syndicated shows. . . Sgt Slaughter will be refereeing selected matches at upcoming house shows.

WWF at the Capital Centre in Landover, MD on 5/1 (matinee- 2pm start) with about 2,300 (there was a lot of cunfusion about the starting time of the event as tickets went on sale before WM9 stating a start of 8pm): 1: Brooklyn Brawler beat Jim Powers. 2: Bob Backlund beat Blake Beverly. 3: The Headshrinkers beat The Smoking Guns- Billy & Bart Gunn (subs for Nasty Boys) in 11:24 after Fatu backheel kicked a Gunn. 4: Lex Luger came out for his match against Bret Hart and was posing in the mirror when the referee warned him that he must wear an elbow pad. Luger refused and went back to the dressing room. Yokozuna beat Jim Duggan in 5:42 after the back butt squash off the second rope. 5: Shawn Michaels wrestled Mr. Perfect to a 20 minute time limit draw as the bell sounded while Perfect was delivering his perfectplex concluding an excellent match. At the 13:00 mark, Perfect pulled Shawn's tights down exposing all of his physical features in that area. At the 15:00 mark with the ref out, Shawn nailed Perfect with the IC belt, but Perfect kicked out when the referee was awoken and attempted a three-count. Powers & Smoking Guns came out to dispute the incident but another ref sent them back. 6. Bam Bam Bigelow beat Kamala in 4:14 with a small package. 7. Bret Hart beat Lex Luger via DQ in 8:46 as Razor Ramon entered the ring when Hart had Luger in the sharpshooter and pounded on Hart. They double-teamed Hart until Luger accidently hit Ramon, and they shoved and argued with each other for several minutes. -By Jeremy Soria

WWF at the War Memorial Auditorium in Rochester, NY on 5/1 and the Broome County Arena in Binghamton, NY on 5/2 (same results for both): Owen Hart beat Damian Demento. Crush wrestled Doink I to a double-countout when Doink II pulled Crush out of the ring. Mr. Hughes beat Virgil. The Undertaker beat Giant Gonzales via DQ. Papa Shango beat Typhoon. Tatanka beat Terry Taylor. The Steiner Brothers beat Money Inc by DQ. -By Freddy Lavin & Pete Suda

WWF at the Civic Center in Providence, RI on 5/2 with about 3,100 and the Civic Center in Springfield, MA on 5/2 with about 1,900 (same results for both): Brooklyn Brawler beat Jim Powers. Bob Backlund beat Blake Beverly. Headshrinkers beat Smoking Guns. Yokozuna beat Jim Duggan by countout. Shawn Michaels battled Mr. Perfect to a twenty minute time limit draw. Bam Bam Bigelow beat Kamala. Bret Hart beat Lex Luger by DQ. -By Louis Fortuna

WWF at the Civic Center in Hartford, CT on 5/3 with about 2,100: Owen Hart beat Brawler. Bam Bam Bigelow beat Kamala. Crush wrestled Doink to a double-countout. Bret Hart beat Razor Ramon. Money Inc beat The Steiners when IRS pinned Scott after hitting him with the briefcase. Tatanka beat Lex Luger. Bob Backlund beat Shawn Michaels by counout. Jim Duggan beat Yokozuna. -By Keith Lagasse

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Sid Vicious (Sid Eudy) is set to debut around Slamboree time. He will be managed by Colonel Robert Parker (Robert Fuller), who's doing a wealthy and elitist southern plantation owner gimmick who made his debut on the 5/1 show saying he would have a WCW star under contract very shortly. It appears as though Vicious will feud with Van Hammer upon his return to WCW, although evidently nothing is completely solid at this point.

Two weeks of WCW Saturday Night were taped on 5/3 at Center Stage in Atlanta that will air on 5/8 and 5/15. Larry Zbyszko joined Tony Shiavone in the broadcast booth as Jesse Ventura is finishing up on the movie that he's been working on with Sylvester Stallone. On the show airing on 5/8, Dustin Rhodes beat Tex Slashinger in the opener, followed by an interview with The Assassin (Jody Hamilton) talking about Slamboree. Ron Simmons came out to restart the "Paula" chants aimed at Paul Orndorff, who stormed out there and went nuts. Next, The Cole Twins beat Tony Vincent (Tony Mero - Johnny B. Badd's brother) & Mustafa Saed. Colonel Robert Parker (Robert Fuller) then came out and said he had a contract for Van Hammer, who he had been scoping out for a couple weeks. This was followed by Hammer beating Rage of The Wrecking Crew. Parker offered Hammer the contract after the match, but was turned down, which caused him to insult Hammer. Davey Boy Smith returned to TV to defeat Fury and was interviewed about his match with Vader at Slamboree. The Blackhearts beat Joey Maggs & Scott Allen (said to be a lot better match than their debut). Then, Dos Hombres (office employees in red and green outfits and masks) with an interpreter talked about coming from Mexico to wrestle Pillman & Austin. Rick Steamboat came out and warned them about The Hollywood Blonds. In a basic squash, Jim Neidhart beat Shanghai Pierce. The Blonds, who said they'll be bringing in top tag teams from around the world to defend their belts against, beat Buddy Lee Parker & Joe Cruz. Maxx Payne vs Johnny B. Badd started as Payne attacked Badd as he shot his glitter gun off, which caused Badd's exit (helped back by Brad Armstrong). Armstrong went back to get Badd's glitter gun and was attacked by Payne. The ref started the match that ended when Badd ran in and attacked Payne when he had Armstrong in the armbar, causing Payne to win by DQ. Payne hit Badd with his glitter gun before leaving. Finally, Harley Race told the crowd about Big Van Vader's public workout airing 5/22. Davey Boy came out and argued with Race as the show ended and said he would be at the workout. In a dark match, Robby V. beat Mark Mercedes (from Australia). On the show airing 5/15, Payne opened by squashing D.T McCoy. Davey Boy talked about Vader's workout again. The Cole Brothers beat The Blackhearts by DQ as a Cole was thrown over the top rope. Hammer won a squash and Parker wheeled out a guerney during the match. After Hammer left, Parker said, "I called Elvis and went to Memphis and found the greatest monster in wrestling today." Next, The Blonds talked about Ric Flair & Arn Anderson as a tag team and Dos Hombres, who they now know are Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas (who is really Brad Armstrong)?? Anderson beat Bobby Eaton (great match). Barry Windham came out on a Harley saying Flair "has had his time, but now it's my time" and talking about Arn, before saying, "I'm not a Horseman anymore" and leaving on his Harley, closing the show.

WCW Pro and Main Event television tapings were held on 4/27 in Gainesville, GA at the Georgia Mountains Center. The highlights of the night included a set of interesting angles to push the program with The Hollywood Blonds and Ricky Steamboat & Shane Douglas. First, The Blonds wrestled Dos Hombres (Steamboat & Brad Armstrong wearing red and green body suits and masks, and wearing sombreros), who did a Mexican dance routine after entering the ring, to a ten minute time limit draw. Halfway into the match, Steve Austin & Brian Pillman began complaining to the ref that it was Steamboat & Douglas in the costumes, and less than a minute later, they walked down the aisle towards the dressing room. Shane Douglas met them in the aisle and chased them back into the ring, and the time limit expired shotly thereafter. Next, in a non-title match, Dos Hombres (Steamboat & Brad Armstrong) beat The Blonds when Steamboat pinned Pillman with a flying body press off the top rope. After the match in an interview, Steamboat took off his mask and told everyone that the other guy, (Armstrong) who kept his mask on, was Douglas. Finally, in a dark match, The Blonds beat Steamboat & Douglas (who wore the Hombres suits but not the masks) by DQ. Douglas, who is still hurt to where he can't wrestle a match, was attacked before the bell and couldn't wrestle. Steamboat wrestled Austin & Pillman alone until Douglas ran in about seven minutes later with a metal pipe, chasing the heels out for the DQ. In the opening match that night, The Cole Twins beat Chris Benoit & Bobby Eaton by DQ as the ref saw Eaton coming off the top rope with a knee on to one of the Coles, Jim Neidhart beat Mike Thor, Dick Slater beat Robby V., Paul Orndorff wrestled Dustin Rhodes to a double-countout, Johnny B. Badd & Van Hammer beat Tex Slashinger & Shanghai Pierce, and Barry Windham beat Ron Simmons by DQ when Simmons hit the ref. In another angle, Dick Slater was doing an interview about Junkyard Dog when JYD came out and they engaged in a staredown. In their match, JYD beat Slater by DQ when Slater pulled the ref in front of him as JYD was coming towards him. Scott Norton won a squash and then talked about Sting in his interview. Also winning squashes were Rick Rude, Paul Orndorff, Arn Anderson, Marcus Bagwell & Too Cold Scorpio, and Maxx Payne.

The Hollywood Blonds vs Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas match at Slamboree will be in a steel cage. . . Although nothing is set yet, Tully Blanchard is expected to return at Slamboree on the Flair for the Gold segment. Just weeks ago, Blanchard stated, "Old things are past away. Tully Blanchard is a new creature in Jesus. . . There is talk about Terry Taylor returning to WCW possibly as a television commentator now that Bill Watts is gone and Ole Anderson is in command. . . They are negotiating for a Sid Vicious & Big Van Vader vs Ultimate Warrior & Sting match at the Beach Blast PPV on July 11. . . Cactus Jack is feeling much better now and has most of his senses back, and is seeing a therapist three days a week.

WCW at the Dorton Arena in Raleigh, NC on 4/30 with about 900: Kent Cole beat Fury of The Wrecking Crew. Maxx Payne beat Keith Cole. Erik Watts & Arn Anderson beat Chris Benoit & Bobby Eaton when Anderson pinned Eaton. Rick Rude beat Brad Armstrong. Dustin Rhodes beat Paul Orndorff. Big Van Vader beat Rick Steamboat. Barry Windham beat Ron Simmons. -By Mike Higler

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

Two of the biggest events of this year, each drawing around 50,000 fans, took place this week after a poor weekend at the gate for WWF and WCW. The Mexican promotion AAA drew approximately 48,000 on 4/30 in Mexico City as Cien Caras beat Konnan in a "retirement match" with Jake Roberts interfering in the match. Konnan will now be starring in soap operas now that he's "retiring" from wrestling for now. The other big show took place in Japan at the Fukuoka Dome on 5/3 as New Japan Pro Wrestling drew nearly 56,000 to see Hulk Hogan pin IWGP Champion Great Muta in a non-title contest, IWGP Tag Team Champions The Hell Raisers (Road Warrior Hawk & Power Warrior - Kensuke Sasaki) beat Masa Chono & Shinya Hashimoto, Sting battled Scott Norton (who juiced tremendously) to a no-contest, Tiger Mask beat Jushin Liger for the IWGP Junior title, among other matches. At the press conference for the show, Hulk Hogan described the WWF title as a Honda compared to the IWGP title being a Rolls Royce.

Bob Ury's "Ultimate Return Tour '93" featured shows in Hamburg, Germany on 4/19 and in Dusseldorf, Germany on 4/21 with American Indians beat Cuban Assassin & Mike Lane (subs for Texas Hangmen), Johnny Rotten beat Cheetah Kid by DQ, Bambi & Candi Devine beat Leilani Kai & Peggy Lee Leather, Jake Roberts beat Greg Valentine (with Madusa) by DQ, WWS Champion The Warrior (Jim Hellwig) beat Hercules Hernandez. -By Stefan Hollmann

WWA at the Coliseum in Clementon, NJ on 5/1 with 190: Abdul Singh drew Boy Gone Bad. Ed the Razor beat Masked Avenger. Misty Blue beat Kat LeRoux. Chris Candito & Chris Evans beat Bobby Salsa & Jimmy Handsome. During a signing for the 6/5 match, Tricky Nicky attacked Amy Lee. Spider beat Sasheem by DQ. -By Bob Koenig

Mike Lano is holding a tribute convention/roast for Sam Muchnick at the Henry VIII Hotel in St. Louis, MO on 5/8 and 5/9 with many names being advertised including Lou Thesz, Red Bastien, Al Costello, Killer Kowalski, Eddie Gilbert, Don Leo Jonathan, Sabu, Bob Orton Jr, Jimmy Snuka, Mad Dog Vachon, Edouard Carpentier, Abdullah the Butcher (5/9), Ted DiBiase & Jack Lanza from the WWF, and a tribute to black wrestlers on Sunday featuring Ron Simmons, Sapphire, Ernie Ladd, Teddy Long, Pex Whatley, Thunderbolt Patterson, and Rocky Johnson. For more info call Mike at the hotel- (800)325-1588. Muchnick is now recovering from open heart surgery but is expected to be released from the hospital this week and attend the tribute to him.

Killer Kowalski's IWF drew 900 on 4/30 in Needham, MA as Chris Duffy beat Richard Burns and Jimmy Snuka beat Honky Tonk Man. . . Jim Kettner's ECWA drew about 950 in Wilmington, DE on 5/1 as Ivan Koloff beat Irish Micky O'Brien, Little Hercules beat Mighty Doom in a midgets match, Mr. Xcitement won a battle royal, Russian Invaders won the tag team titles beating Rockin' Ronny & Cowboy Blaze as Lou

Albano & Koloff aided in the decision, and Lance Diamond won the title from Cheetah Master in a steel cage. -By Greg Ferrell. . . Nailz and The Mountie can no longer use their WWF trademarked names so they're going under the names The Convict and Canadian Law & Order respectively. . . While Jake Roberts was touring England, one of his snakes died. . . Tommy Dee's UWS has shows on 5/21 at Our Lady of Grace in Brooklyn, NY and on 5/22 at the Holy Child in Staten Island, NY with Jimmy Snuka vs Hercules (in a steel cage on 5/21).

FLYER FAN FARE

Thomas Fillius of 609 Heston Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028 is looking for the 4/20 edition of ECW on Sports Channel. . . Jason M. Shepard of 1110 Vine St., Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 has started the Mr. Perfect Fan Club will many different packages available. . . The Wrestling Today Hotline with John Arezzi is $1.49 per minute with daily messages at 1-900-933-7526.

FLYER BACK ISSUES- INTERVIEWS WITH:

#4: Jerry Lawler, #5: Paul Roma & Johnny B. Badd, #6: Iron Sheik & Jimmy Snuka, #7: Bruno Sammartino, #8: Kerry Von Erich, #9: Sammartino, #10: Terry Taylor, #11: Hawk & Taylor, #12: Marty Jannetty, #13: Jannetty, #14: Animal, #15: Buddy Landel, #16: Davey Boy Smith & Paul Ellering, #17: Jake Roberts, #18: Roberts, #19: Various, #20: Madusa, #21: Madusa, #22: Paul E. Dangerously, #23: Earthquake, #24: Honky Tonk Man, #25: Max Moon, #26: Bill Watts. Each back issue is $2 ($3 outside of U.S.) (no color photo) and can be ordered by sending the proper payment to the Flyer address.

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could please phone in a report of any live shows you attend after the event is held to our phoneline (215)566-3852 at any and all hours of the day. THANK YOU.

All interviews are transcribed verbatim and the opinions of the subject being interviewed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor or this newsletter.

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COLOR PHOTO: SID VICIOUS

READERS!

In order to improve and better suit your needs as a follower of the wrestling business and as a subscriber of this newsletter, it would be most appreciated if you could evaluate this product by honestly and objectively answering the questions below which pertain to the quality of this newsletter. The overall goal and intended result of this survey is to better design this newsletter to best suit your desires and needs as a reader. As an incentive, all readers who participate and devote their time to this project (by answering the questions and sending them to the *Flyer* address) will receive an 8" by 10" color reprint; your choice- Kerry Von Erich, Kevin Sullivan, Sid Vicious, Terry Funk, or The Warrior (Jim Hellwig). Please include a stamp when sending in your responses to cover the postage costs of sending the photo. THANK YOU

1. Do you save the newsletters or throw them away?
2. Do you save the color photos or throw them away?
3. Would you like to see the color photo eliminated and add two to four pages to the newsletter?
4. Would you like to see B&W photos with the news/interviews?
5. Would you like the format to feature mostly interviews?
6. What other types of features would you like to see included?
7. Would you like to see a letters page from the readers?
8. Would you like to see the independents covered more- including Smoky Mountain, Memphis, etc?
9. Would you like to see more results or reviews of WWF and WCW arena shows?